Days Of Old Sumner County

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1811-1812 Earthquakes Rattle Sumner

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

Among the stories recounted in Dr. Charles Moffatt's book, *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*, is an account by a witness to the 1811-1812 West Tennessee earthquakes, which were felt in Sumner County and caused residents to fear the end of the world. Moffatt, who is pastor emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church of Gallatin, found the story in old church documents. In his book, he reports:

"Beginning on Dec. 16, 1811, and continuing for weeks, the central Mississippi region was rocked by a series of earthquakes in which it is said the Mississippi River flowed upstream and formed Reelfoot Lake in northwest Tennessee. Rev. Peter Cartwright, a Methodist minister, was in Nashville at the time of the earthquake. He vividly describes what he saw: 'Chimneys were thrown down, scaffolding around many new buildings fell with a loud crash, hundreds of citizens awoke and sprang into the streets, loud screaming followed, for many thought the day of judgment had come.' He [Cartwright] added that hundreds and even thousands joined churches out of fear. It was a panic situation."

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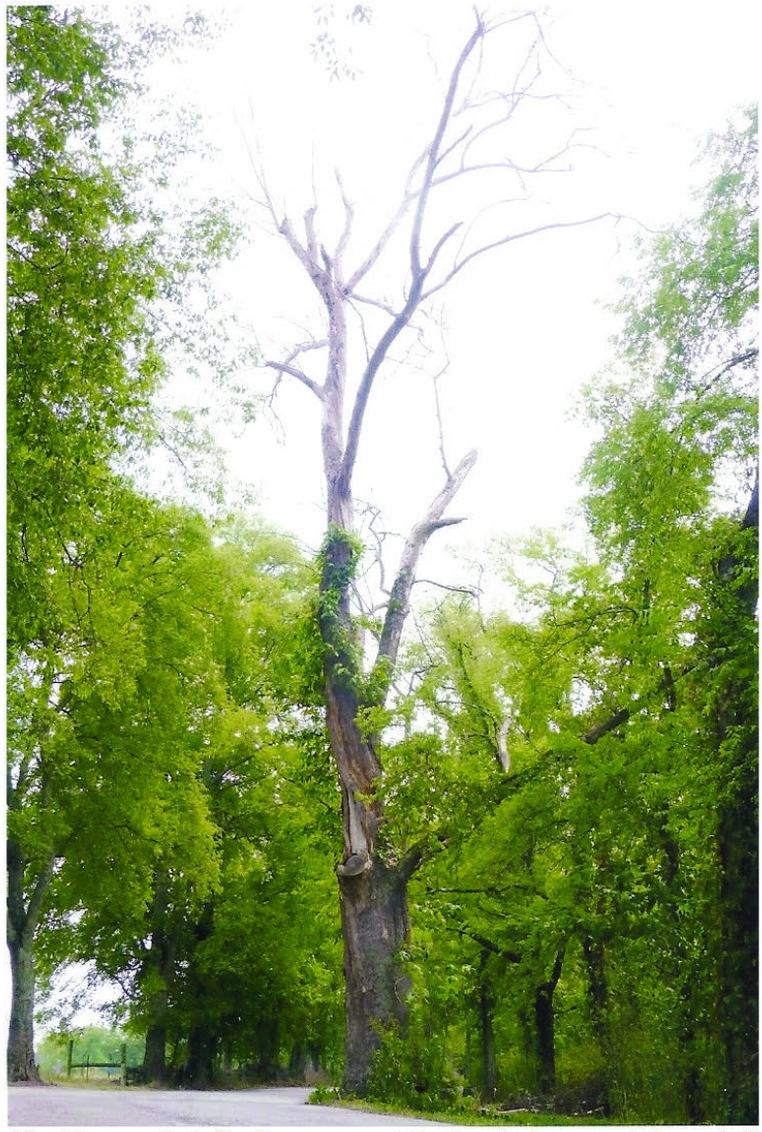
Hanging Tree Downed

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor, and Ken Thomson, President SCHS

Sumner County's historic hanging tree was cut down in August of last year. The large, old Sycamore, located on the edge of Upper Station Camp Creek Road at the driveway into the Zean Hollins family farm, was where a slave known as "Old Tom" was hung on March 23, 1861, for murdering his master, William Moore.

The Hollins property was then the William C. "Hog" Moore farm.



About three weeks before it was removed, the hanging tree was photographed

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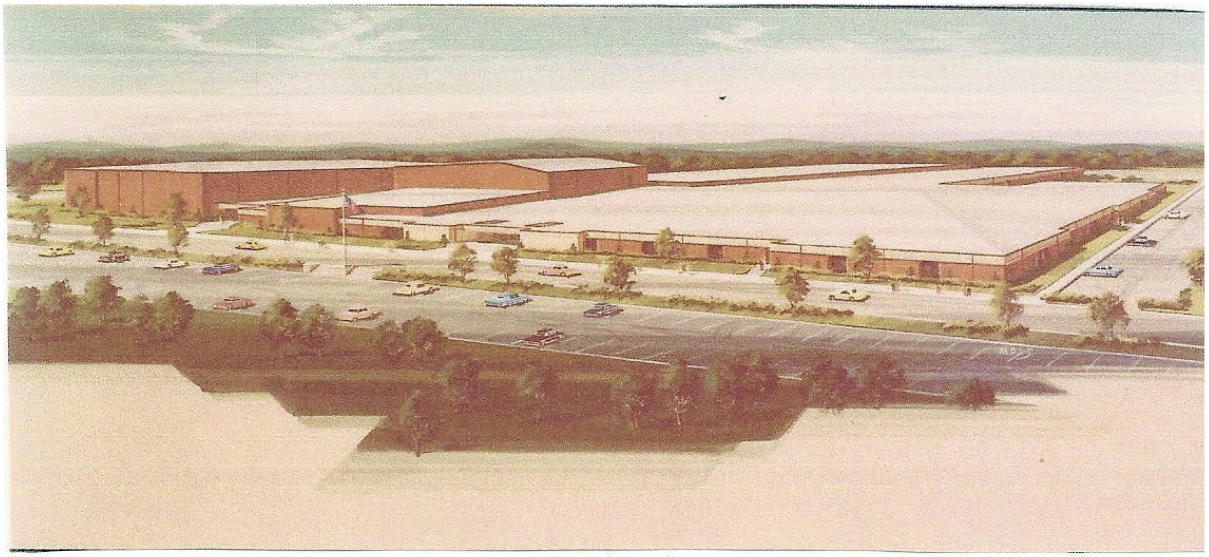


An artist's rendering of the New Shackle Island High School (Beech) provided to the County Commission before construction

Behind the Scenes: Why Beech High Was Built

By Jamie Clary

For more than a decade, Hendersonville parents had demanded that the county government provide funds to relieve Hendersonville's over-crowded elementary schools. They were rewarded begrudgingly during the early 1970s through court action and political involvement. They even got a new middle school to help the less needy, middle school crowd.

To nobody's surprise, the children got older, and a new high school did not build itself.

Hendersonville's high schoolers were accommodated by one public school at the corner of Indian Lake and Gallatin roads. Every student between White House, Gallatin, Wilson County and Davidson County was zoned for Hendersonville High School.

To many in county government, the problem of population growth was Hendersonville's to fix. The commuting, Yankee, newcomers often shopped and ate in Davidson County, providing sales tax revenue for Nashville schools. If those residents would spend in their home county of Sumner, the accusation continued, they would not need the county government to increase the tax rate on the whole county to serve the students in Hendersonville.

The greater hurdles were the differences between the people leading the Gallatin-centric county and the people living in Hendersonville. Also, few government veterans felt an obligation to help voters who had never supported them and never would.

On top of that, Hendersonville residents were suing the county commission to re-apportion the county districts, harassing them in the media, and rarely showing any appreciation for the occasional increased funding provided by the county body.

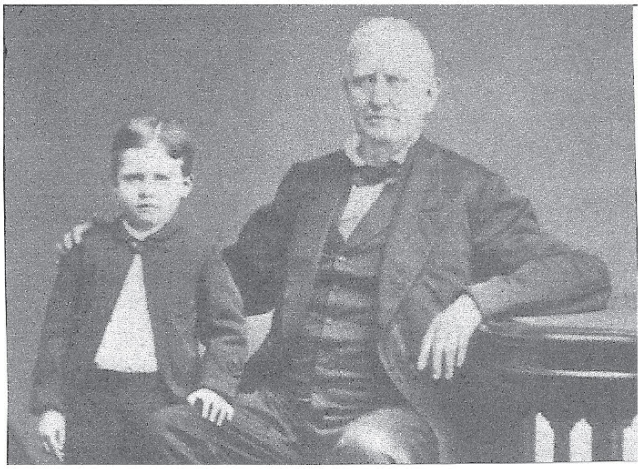
County leaders constantly defended themselves by telling Hendersonville residents that they held the solution in their own hands—shop in Sumner County. Hendersonvillians bought their groceries in Hendersonville's Hurt's Market, Food Town or H.G. Hill, but they were notorious for buying everything else in Davidson County, where they worked.

County leaders had a point, but it got lost in a chicken and egg situation. Major retailers would not build stores in Hendersonville because Hendersonville residents were willing to travel to Rivergate. Residents traveled to Rivergate to shop because there were no major retailers in Hendersonville.

During the finger-pointing see-saw, Hendersonville High School grew to jail-like proportions.

The domed HHS building had opened in 1966 without a cafeteria. The county added that in 1972 and later an auditorium, auxiliary gymnasium, additional offices, vocational wing and parking lot. But the building expansions were not catching up to the growth of the student body.

See BEECH HIGH, Page 3



Balie Peyton and grandson Balie Peyton III

Balie Peyton: Politics, Horses

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

One of the least known books by the late Sumner County historian Walter Durham is *Balie Peyton of Tennessee,* published in 2004, about the colorful 18th Century politician/turfman of the same name.

Balie Peyton, born in 1803, was one of Gallatin's most fascinating native sons. Elected to Congress two terms as a favorite of President Andrew Jackson, he later became a leader of the opposition Whig party. In his first congressional race at the age of 30, he ran against Col. Archibald Overton of Smith Co. who was warned that his youthful opponent was a formidable orator. "When you meet him upon the stump…you will hear thunder, and you will witness the forked lightning jumping from crag to crag," Overton was told.

Peyton was an ally of President William Henry Harrison, who died only 30 days after inauguration leaving Peyton and other supporters wondering how Vice President Tyler would react to receiving the presidency so unexpectedly.

During the Mexican War, Peyton served as colonel on the staff of Gen. Zachary Taylor and later helped Taylor win the Whig Party nomination for president.

He was the city attorney of San Francisco during the gold rush and helped reestablish the rule of law.

Throughout his life, Peyton bred horses. "He was recognized internationally as a breeder and racer of fine thoroughbreds, but financial success in turf matters always seemed to elude him," wrote Durham.

At the brink of the Civil War, Peyton came back to Tennessee and Philadelphia to organize the national Constitutional Union Party. He was a rare politician: a staunch Unionist who hailed from a Southern state. "He opposed Tennessee's secession from the republic and urged reconciliation. Although a slaveholder, the issues of slavery and Southern rights weren't enough to change his loyalty, not even when his son joined the Confederate Army and died in battle," wrote Durham.

(BEECH HIGH, Continued from Page 2)

To deal with so many students, the school's administrators crafted a schedule of elective courses throughout the day and two blocks of required classes—one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. That allowed students to leave campus early or come later, freeing up teachers and classrooms. Seniors were discouraged from taking classes not necessary for graduation and encouraged to graduate after their junior year or at Christmas of their senior year.

As of graduation day 1975, HHS had 1,532 students. When it opened after summer a couple of months later, it had 66 more. The scenario was worse two years later when the school enrollment increased by 157 over the summer break, pushing the student body toward 1,800.

As vocal parents talked seriously about creating a separate school district, the county body purchased land at the corner of New Shackle Island Road and Long Hollow Pike for a new high school. The money needed to build it did not come as easily.

Three years later, the county body took up the idea of funding construction of a Shackle Island High School. However, the bids near $7 million scared the county commissioners.

On the parents' side was a report from the Tennessee Department of Education that threatened to withhold state dollars if the county did not take action to relieve HHS crowding. That possibility inspired the commission to sell bonds to cover the cost of a 192,000-square-foot building. It would have a complete vocational department, the largest gymnasium in the county—4,000 seats—but no outdoor stadium.

In mid-September 1978, county leaders broke ground. The event allowed the school to open a year later.

By the time the school opened, HHS had graduated its largest class—600 students—and the new school had a new name, Beech High School, to match the name of the elementary school then located across the street and the community surrounding it.

Jamie Clary is the author of The City by the Lake: A history of Hendersonville from 1968 through 1988.

Gwin Changed the Course of California's History

By Jan Shuxteau, editor

(Editor's Note: California was acquired by the U.S. from Mexico the same year that gold was discovered. On Feb. 2, 1848, the U.S. and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by which Mexico recognized California as United State's territory. On Dec. 5, 1848, President James Polk announced the discovery of gold and asked Congress to set up a territorial government. Debate quickly began over whether California would enter the Union as a slave state or free.)

Born in Sumner County in 1805, William M. Gwin was the most influential political figure in California during the decade that began with the '49 gold rush, reported the late historian Walter Durham in his 1997 book, *Volunteer Forty-Niners*.

"Gwin was a remarkable second generation product of the Tennessee frontier," wrote Durham. "He was admitted to the practice of law at Gallatin in 1826. During that same year, he undertook the study of medicine at Transylvania College in Lexington, Ky., preparatory to entering actively into that profession in 1828. He began a medical practice in Mississippi but abandoned it in 1833 after having taken leave for six months to serve in Washington as a private secretary to President Andrew Jackson."

A few years later, Jackson appointed Gwin United States marshal for the southern district of Mississippi. That was a springboard for Gwin's1840 election as a Mississippi congressman. He served one term before moving to New Orleans, where he was the federal commissioner superintending construction of a customs house. Gwin was living in New Orleans when gold was discovered in California.

But it was not gold that inspired him to head for California in 1849; it was politics and the prospect of a new state. The influx of tens of thousands of gold miners stepped up the process—already underway—of bringing California into the Union. Gwin got off a boat in California in June 1849, five days before territorial governor Brig. Gen. Bennett Riley called for an August election of delegates for a September constitutional convention to organize California's government as either a territory or a state.

Gwin's reputation preceded him, and he was selected as the San Francisco convention delegate. He immediately assumed a leading role in the push for statehood. Much of the language in the state constitution is his. Among other things—and despite his Southern background—Gwin was anti slavery. "Gwin's presence in the convention was vital to its success," said Durham. "Not only was he one of the best educated delegates, a protégé of the late President Andrew Jackson and a former member of Congress, he knew how government worked, and he understood its limitations."

Shortly after the convention, Gwin won a six year term as the first U.S. senator from California. The elections were at Washington's behest, but statehood was still bogged down over the slavery issue. California sent Gwin and other delegates to the Washington in January 1850 to speed the process. It was August before the Compromise of 1850 passed, allowing California in the union as a free state.

Gwin went on to win a series of California bills in his first term, establishing: the San Francisco mint, a telegraph line from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Coast and a navy yard and depot in San Francisco. He was optimistic about the future of the U.S. and forthright in his opinion that the nation should expand. Following a speech in 1854 advocating territorial expansion, he toasted the nation, saying, "The City of Washington may it before the close of the present century be the capital of 62 states instead of 31!"

Political Shenanigans Unseat Gwin

In 1854, David Broderick, a rising politician in California, "won" Gwin's Senate seat by one vote in the legislature. But Broderick's win came on shaky ground. He had maneuvered to advance the date for election by a year, catching Gwin unprepared. The day after Gwin's loss a Whip legislator who have voted for Broderick reconsidered, and Broderick's victory was snatched away. The Senate seat remained vacant from March 1855-March 1857, during which time Broderick used newspapers he

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William Gwin was instrumental to California statehood

(GWIN, Continued from Page 4)

owned or controlled to successfully discredit Gwin and other candidates and win a seat. The second seat remained empty on the Friday after Election Day since neither Gwin nor other candidates had enough votes to be nominated. Broderick held a position of strength, guaranteeing that whomever he supported for the other senate seat would get it.

Over the weekend, Gwin and Broderick met and agreed to what Durham called a "face-saving deal." On Monday, Jan. 12, 1857, the caucus nominated Gwin, who promised he could get federal patronage for Broderick.

However, the deal had no traction in Washington. President Buchanan continued to favor Gwin and would not accord Broderick patronage opportunities. Gwin was popular with the other senators, and they road-blocked Broderick. Back in California, Broderick supporters deserted him and supported Gwin. Angry over his failures, Broderick challenged one of Gwin's supporters to a duel and was shot to death.

Though his biggest adversary was now dead, Gwin began having problems in Washington too. Gwin spoke up for the Union but also defended the constitutional rights of the states. Pleasing no one, he was passed over for the next senate nomination. When his term ended in March 1861, Gwin headed to California, but his wife stayed behind. After he left, she was falsely accused of spying for the South. He hurried back to New York to help her only to himself be arrested for rebellion and sent to prison. President Lincoln released him on the condition of exile.

"Gwin sent his wife and their daughter, Carrie, to France while he slipped behind Confederate lines, planning there to convince the other daughter Lucy and son William to go with him to unite the family in France. After several months, father and daughter ran the blockade to Bermuda, took a steamer to England were reunited with Mrs. Gwin and Carrie in Paris early in September [1862]. A few months later William joined them," recounted Durham.

In exile, Gwin decided to help Napoleon III in his plan to found a Mexican empire on New World gold. In 1863, Gwin asked French officials to use French troops—already in Mexico supporting the Austrian archduke Maximilian—to protect miners he would recruit from California to mine in Sonora. He asked to lead the project. He conferred with both Napoleon III and Maximilian and was sent back and forth between Mexico and Paris, meeting with officials during 1864. But at last, the deal fell flat; Napoleon secretly abandoned Maximilian and brought home the troops.

Meanwhile in the U.S, the South surrendered. Gwin wanted to end his exile. From Mexico, he crossed into Texas, reported to Union military officials and was granted amnesty by Gen. Philip Sheridan. However, the War Department had other ideas. They ordered his arrest and imprisoned him for several months.

By 1866, Gwin was free and back in France, awaiting any change in American politics that would enable the family to move back home. Two years later when President Johnson issued universal amnesty, he and his family returned to California.

Gwin did not again seek political office though he never lost interest in public affairs and was very pleased when his son was elected to the state senate in 1869. Instead of pursuing politics, Gwin, his son and son-in-law went into business, purchasing two quartz mines in California, combining them to form the Gwin Mining Company. It eventually employed 80 men and was one of the largest producers of gold in the state.

Gwin traveled East at least twice after his exile to France. He was in New York City in 1885 promoting the interests of the Panama railroad when he was stricken ill with pneumonia. He died on Sept. 3, 1885, in his New York hotel.

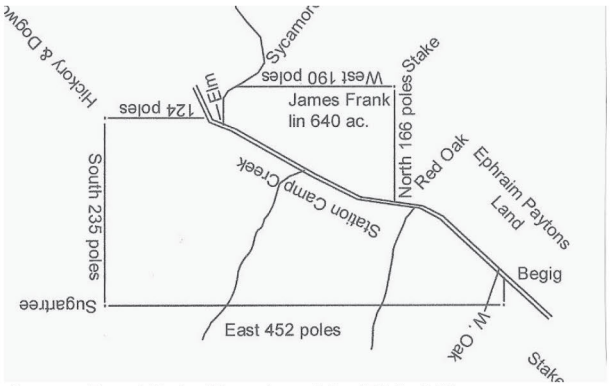
Bellevue, Sunnyside, Duncruzin to Hunter's Run

By Lt. Col. Sam Doyle, U.S. Army, retired

Between Hendersonville and Gallatin, from Springhaven in the west to Fairvue in the east, there were 11 estates that were homes of Franklins—all descendants of James Franklin, Sr. This story follows the lineage of one of those homes.

It all started with patriarch James Franklin, who was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1755, according to city records and his tombstone (though other sources cite 1750). Family lore has it that James' mother was on a bridal tour with her second husband when James, then only 16, convinced his two sisters to strike out for Virginia with him and some slaves. Their adventure was short lived as the stepfather caught up with them. One sister and all slaves except one went home with the stepfather. Family members now wonder if his search for them may have been more about recovering the slaves than finding the children. The other sister, Margaret, apparently stayed with James, eventually settled in Sumner Co. and married James Watwood. Franklin and his slave are known to have traveled on to Virginia to Botetourt Co, then Augusta Co., where he worked for James Lauderdale around 1776 and married Lauderdale's daughter, Mary.

Apparently, Franklin was a member of the Long Hunters that forayed in Middle Tennessee (then part of North Carolina) in 1772. The Daughters of the American Revolution credit him with serving in the Virginia Line as a corporal. The Historic Bluegrass Line credits him with helping Mansker build his first fort near Goodlettsville in 1778. He was certainly in Middle Tennessee in 1779; he is listed as one of the "immortal seventy who staid through the darkest days of the settlement" of the Robertson Company at Fort Nashborough in the terrible winter of 1779-1780. Robertson petitioned the North Carolina General Assembly to give these pioneers, including Franklin, 640 acre land grants.



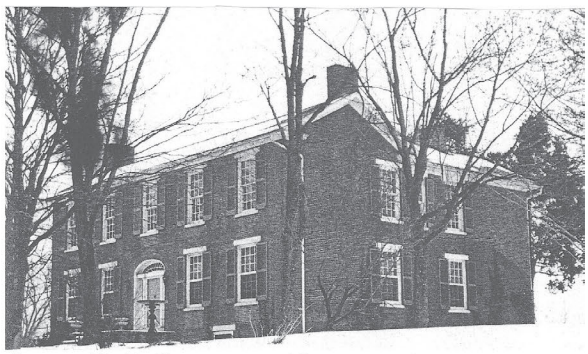
James Franklin's Plat, Jan. 26, 1784, 640 acres

In 1783, James Franklin, James McKain, Elmore Douglass and Charles Carter built a fort on the west side of Station Camp Creek, near Pilot's Knob. On Nov. 30, 1784, Daniel Smith (of Rock Castle) and James Sanders surveyed Franklin's land grant on both sides of Station Camp Creek.

James settled there and built his brick Pilot's Knob house at the junction of present day Sandersville Rd. and Station Camp Creek Rd. in the late 1780s. He and Mary reared a family there, died there and were buried there in marked graves. The original house remains, although years ago it partially burned and has been appreciably altered. The detached kitchen and servants' quarters remain as well.

Bellevue Built by James Franklin II

In October 1802, James sold 385 acres on the east side of the creek to his 24 year-old son James, II. There, James II laid the stone foundation for his two-story brick L-shaped federal house, Bellevue, on the bluff overlooking the creek in the west. James II married Prudence McKain in February 1803 and gave her the house as a wedding gift.



James II's Bellevue stood for more than a century on Station Camp Creek Road until destroyed by fire in 1948. It was also called Sunnyside and Duncruisin' by other owners.

James II died in 1846, but he left no will. Consequently, a court-appointed commission granted Prudence a dower of the mansion house and 646 acres, one-third of James II's land holdings. The dower gave her a life estate.

William Franklin Sr., another son of patriarch James, bought Bellevue in 1855, the same year his wife, Evelina , died. Their children were: Mary, Bettie, Margaret, Benjamin, Henry, William, Douglass, Jas, Reuben and Jane. William Sr., died Oct. 31, 1876, leaving Bellevue to daughter Margaret and her children at her death.

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Margaret had married Rev. Maryatt Roseni Elliott in 1862. Elliott was attorney general for the 10th Judicial District and minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They had four children. In 1862, Elliott enlisted as a private in Captain Thomas Edwards Russwurm's Sumner Company (Company B, 9th Tennessee Cavalry) and was appointed ordnance officer and was in the Battle of Hartsville. The Elliotts apparently changed Bellevue's name to Sunnyside, according to 1878 Sumner Co. maps.

Margaret Elliott died in 1907 and willed Bellevue/Sunnyside to two of her four children although all four had inherited equal interests from their grandfather. Her daughter, Jennie Knight Kelley ended up buying her three brothers' one-quarter absolute interests in 1908 and 1909.

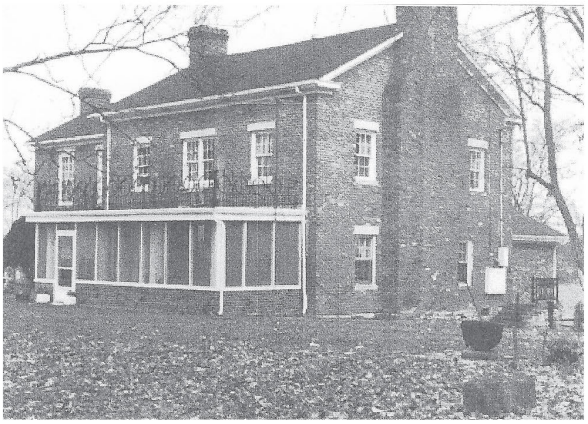
From 1918 to 1931, the estate changed hands several times. William Young Allen bought the property in 1931 and then sold a tract of 100 acres, which included the mansion, carriage house, detached kitchen with servants' quarters, barn and other outbuildings, to his niece Lucy Virginia Van Horn Haynie Doyle. He sold the remainder to Jama Sharp Franklin.

DUNCRUZIN and DUNCRUZIN II

Lucy (known as Lulu) Doyle, who had grown up in Gallatin, her husband Captain Stafford Henry Doyle, and their two children came back to Sumner County after he retired from the U.S. Navy in 1935. They first lived in the log Pilot Knob house while renovating and adding a wing to Sunnyside. They rechristened the house DUNCRUZIN, so named because Captain Doyle was, in truth, done cruising after having been a recipient of the Navy Cross in WWI and being the skipper of American's first aircraft carrier, the *USS Langley*, in the 1920s. He died in 1942.

DUNCRUZIN's main house caught fire on May 27, 1948. Neighbors recued many belongings from the first floor, but much was lost including the wedding presents of Lucy Allen Doyle Bastian. John Franklin, son of Jama Franklin, recalled turning the baby grand Steinway piano on its side and passing it out the drawing room window. He swung on the chandeliers to wrench them from ceiling anchors and save them. He carried double arm loads of silver service like firewood from a closet under the stairs. Though the brick walls of the gutted house stood after the fire, they were hazardous and were razed. The salvaged brick was used to build a Catholic school in Gallatin.

Meanwhile, DUNCRUZIN'S carriage house was remodeled by Nathan Bastain Sr., father of Lucy's son-in-law. He created DUNCRUZIN II, with both downstairs and upstairs apartments. The widow Lucy lived upstairs, and her daughter-in-law and four children lived downstairs while her son was in Korea (1953-1955).



DUNCRUZIN II after the remodel and screening of the front porch.

Lucy Doyle died in 1955, leaving the property to her two children, Will-David Doyle and Lucy Allen Bastian. The place was rented while the estate was settled. In 1961, the property was sold at public auction. Will-David bought 100 acres with improvements for $33,750. Lucy Bastain deeded her half of the estate to her brother for $10, and the two heirs split the proceeds of the sale.

Will-David and his wife, Jerry, remodeled the house to suit the needs of themselves and their six children. Will-David died in 1971, and Jerry Doyle kept the house until her death in 1991, when the property was inherited by her children. They subdivided the land and sold it at auction in 1992.

Glenn Young bought the bluff tract with the house. He renamed the house, Hunter's Run.

Early Life of Notable Attorney James Neal

By Al Dittes

Thirty years after graduating from high school in Portland, James (Jim) Foster Neal took his place among the most prominent attorneys in the United States, successfully prosecuting the top aides of President Richard Nixon in the Watergate scandal. Following that, Neal became the go-to man for high-profile people in trouble with the law. He helped send Teamsters Union President Jimmy Hoffa to jail and defended Ford Motor Company, Exxon Valdez and the physician of Elvis Presley.

Above is a Wall Street Journal file photo of James Neal during the Watergate hearings.

Neal was a typical kid with a powerful mind, a star football player but doing nothing extra in the classroom. Born on Sept. 7, 1929, to Robert Gus and Emma Clendenning Neal, he grew up on a farm along Dobbins Pike. A fellow student, James Wilkinson, now remembers Neal as a "regular farm boy who would rather play sports than study hard. He was a popular guy."

His sister, Lila Ligon, who grew up to be a school teacher, recalls Jim's grade school teachers bragging about him. "This little kid was smart," they would say.'"

Ligon notes that parents Gus and Emma Neal were not college educated, but they were "school wanters," who admired people with education and liked to listen to them. The Neal family was active in the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and often invited the preacher over to talk. They also took an interest in Sumner County politics.

"Gus Neal loved to talk and argue politics," said Barry Ligon, a nephew of James Neal.

To the dismay of his father, young Jim didn't like farm work even though the Neal family life revolved around the fields. He wanted to go to college, and he hoped for football scholarship to pay the way. He was a top athlete, nicknamed "Flash" by high school teammates because he ran so fast.

Neal is mentioned in various local sports stories. The Sept. 15, 1944, *Upper Sumner Press*, listed Neal as a tailback, along with David Devasher, in a game with DuPont High School in Old Hickory. Watt Hardison, later mayor of Portland, coached the team. The Oct 5., 1945, *Upper Sumner Press* listed Neal in the starting lineup against the Gallatin Green Waves in the first game played under the lights at Memorial Field, so-named to honor Sumner County High School students killed during World War II.

However, Neal's football prowess didn't score well with his father. "Everybody had to work very hard," recalled Neal's widow, Nashville attorney Diane Neal. "Father was stickler for everybody in the family doing all chores. As a result, Jim had no nostalgia about living rural life."

Vanderbilt did not offer Neal a football scholarship—he was too small--but the coach advised him to apply at the University of Wyoming. The head coach there was Bowden Wyatt, formerly a star player at the University of Tennessee. It was known that Wyatt liked to recruit in Tennessee and that one of his assistant coaches, Skeeter Bailey, had grown up in Portland. Neal got the scholarship.

Neal graduated from the University of Wyoming, spending his final summer there at boot camp in order to become a U.S. Marine. The Korean War broke out about the time he finished college, and Neal started out in the military as a tank commander. He attained the rank of captain and found his life's calling while in the Marines through an assignment to the Jag Corps, the legal branch of the military.

After returning home, he enrolled in the Vanderbilt University Law School, surprising his

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family by finishing at the top of his class every semester and serving as editor of the *Law Review*. "I can see him now sitting at a table with a special seat in the library," said classmate John J. Hooker, Jr. "He was a diligent worker. He studied hard and comprehended what he studied."

The distinguished Class of 1957 contained other future notables such as Bill Henry, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission; civil rights lawyer George Barrett, Davidson County District Attorney Tom Shriver and Federal District Judge Tom Higgins.

Hooker recalled that Neal originally intended to become a tax lawyer and started his career by working for the Life and Casualty Insurance Co. Neal then moved on to Turney & Turney, a distinguished admiralty firm, handling the law as it related to the use of oceans.

National Prominence: Hoffa Case

Then John Fitzgerald Kennedy became president of the United States, and Neal's life took a turn. The president's brother, Robert, was named U.S. Attorney General. He wanted someone to prosecute Teamsters chief Jimmy Hoffa. Hooker, a Kennedy friend, was asked to tackle the assignment but decided he wasn't qualified to handle that kind of complex case.

"So I called Jim Neal.," said Hooker. "He was highly intelligent. This matter involved a lot of detail. Even though he had no real trial experience, I thought he would master the enormous amount of material involved. John Siegenthaler, an administrative assistant to Bobby Kennedy, supported this suggestion after meeting Neal."

Just five years out of law school, Neal took the case as Special Assistant to Kennedy, leading the Justice Department's investigation of Hoffa for corruption. At the first trial in Nashville, Hoffa fixed the jury. Neal led a second prosecution against the union boss.

"They moved the trial to Chattanooga," said Hooker, "I recommended adding my father, John Jay Hooker, Sr., to the legal team. He and Neal convicted Hoffa."

Neal won the only federal conviction against Hoffa, whose prison sentence was later commuted by President Richard Nixon.

The Washington Post reported his closing argument, which Neal himself considered his finest legal presentation. The *Post* said, "He shouted. He whispered. He glared, at times swiveling around dramatically to point at the defendants."

Neal also served as Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Undercover Operations of the Dept. of Justice and U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee from 1964 to 1966.

Prosecuting the Watergate Cover Up

Neal started out on the Watergate prosecution team in 1973 by working under lead attorney Archibald Cox. As Chief Trial Counsel of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force, he argued the government's case in the Watergate cover up trial and won a guilty verdict. Former U.S. Attorney General John N. Mitchell and two of Nixon's closest advisers, John D. Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman, went to jail as a result.

After the trials ended, Neal returned to Nashville and started the Neal & Harwell law firm in partnership with Aubrey Harwell. In this capacity, he defended many high-profile clients in court. He won an acquittal for Ford Motor Co., in 1980 after it was charged with reckless homicide over the design of its Pinto car.

"That was a great victory," said Hooker. "The trial involved a lot of money. Ford could have been badly hurt. He worked diligently and effectively."

Neal successfully defended Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards in a 1985 racketeering trial and handled the defense for Exxon after the 1989 oil spill in Alaska. After the verdict, Neal joked, "I have the unhappy record of losing the biggest verdict in the history of the United States, a $5 billion punitive damage."

Throughout Neal's walk with fame, he never forgot his origins. "Jim was very proud of his Portland roots," Hooker said. "He frequently talked to me about that. His father was a big influence."

Neal died on Oct. 21, 2010, of cancer in Nashville. He was 81.

QUAKE, Continued from Page 1

Rev. John Allan, a son of Shiloh [a church formerly located in Gallatin on Hartsville Pike], and his family, who then lived in Christian County, Ky., were in Sumner County during the earthquake days, visiting relatives. Allan was then in charge of Lebanon Academy in Christian County."

According to Moffatt, Allan wrote, *"Here we found the religious excitement quite as great as in the place of our residence. Prayer meetings were held almost every night somewhere in the bounds of the congregation of Shiloh."*

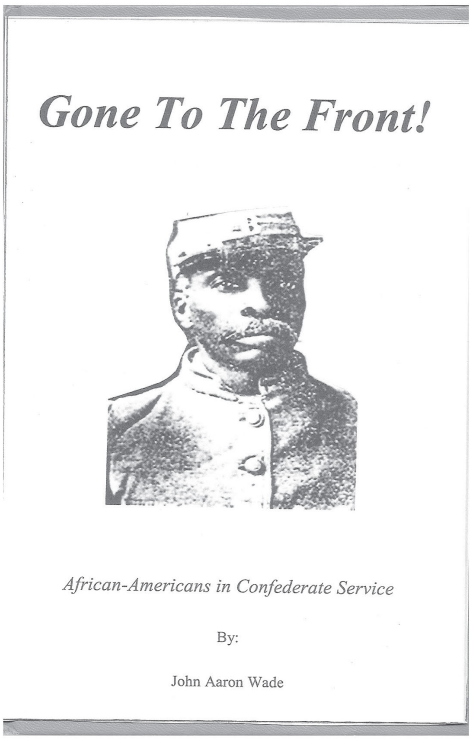
Allan attended one of the prayer meetings and was deeply moved. Mr. Richard King, a Shiloh elder, talked with him. The family then spent the night with an uncle, William Hodge. Moffatt reported that, "During that night there was a powerful aftershock, and everywhere people were praying."

Allan's Story Continues

A few mornings after that aftershock, Allan went into the woods at the foot of old Shiloh Hill on which the meeting house stood to pray. He said, *"I was blessed with such views of the divine character as I never had before."*

Moffatt records that Allan reported "worrying that his epiphany might have been 'an earthquake religion,'" but Allan determined to make a public profession of faith, which he did. He eventually became a Shiloh elder and an ordained Presbyterian minister. He served the Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Ala.

Editor's Note: The 1811-1812 earthquakes are considered the most violent quakes ever recorded in North America. Had they occurred in a heavily populated area instead of rural West Tennessee—the New Madrid fault zone—they would have caused disasters of epic proportions. The first great quake on Dec. 16 was of greater magnitude than the entire 1906 earthquake in California, and it came without warning early in the morning.



Available: *Gone to the Front!*

Hot off the presses is a new book, *Gone to the Front!,* with facts about the service of African Americans in the Confederate army. "This is a must read for any historian, particularly a Civil War enthusiast," said Ken Thomson, president of the Sumner County Historical Society.

"*Gone to the Front!* details the activities of the African Amercan soldiers in the Southern Army," said Thomson. "The book contains previously unpublished records of free blacks who served as combatants and who took part in the field of battle beside their Caucasian counterparts."

"A mixture of scant records and emotional based reasoning are the blame for the denial of these individuals' rightful recognition as Confederate soldiers," said author John Aaron Wade of Austin, Texas, and formerly of Murfreesboro.

Muster and pension rolls, plus the appearance of African Americans on the Rolls of the Confederate organizations reveal much about each man's service, according to Thomson. Books are $12.50. To purchase and receive a copy, call Thomson at 461-8830.

HANGING TREE, Continued from Page 1

Moore had purchased 596 acres from the heirs of James Franklin Jr. in 1848 for $10,634.

The *Courier and Enquirer* newspaper reported the sequence of events on March 27, 1861, in a story headlined "The Killing of William C. Moore," reproduced (as written) below:

We seldom, if ever, had to record a more painful occurance than the killing of Wm. C. Moore, on last Saturday morning by one of his Slaves. Mr. Moore had determined to remove on of his negro men, whose name we do not remember, from his farm in Sumner County to his plantation in Alabama. It seems that the negro had manifested an indisposition to exchange homes, and on the morning referred to, Mr. Moore, in the presence of his sons and neighbor, Mr. T. Craighed, was in the act of placing handcuffs on him, to render his transmissions secure. The negro thereupon resisted, and with a knife, which he had on his person, suddenly committed the fatal deed, cutting his master's throat and killing him almost instantly. Young Mr. Moore, in attempting to assist his father, was also badly cut by the negro, who then successfully resisted Mr. Craighed, made his escape into the woods. The neighbors being apprised of the unhappy occurence, immediately set out in search of the fugitive who was caught during the day not very far distant from the plantation of his master. The negro was then executed by hanging.

Opposed as we are to every thing in the shape of a mob, we are yet inclined to think that the courts of the country should not be troubled with such cases as this. They deserve a summary disposal.

Mr. Moore was one of the most estimable citizens of Sumner County, and his untimely death is the source of painful sorrow to all who are acquainted with the high qualities of the man.

William C. "Hog" Moore was born on April 1807 in Mercer County, Ky. He was the son of Samuel Moore and Mary Crow Moore. He married Nancy K. Burke.

Nothing more is known of Old Tom the slave.

The Tree Was Cut Down

The hanging tree was cut because it had become a traffic hazard. Located only inches from Upper Station Camp Creek Road, the tree appeared to be dying and could fall in the path of traffic. It had been struck by lightning twice recently.

It is only by coincidence that the historical society has a picture of it, reports SCHS president Ken Thomson. "I happened to talk with Zean Hollis at the July dedication of the Douglass-Clark House at Station Camp Creek," he said. "Zean mentioned to me that his parents during their lifetimes struggled to prevent the county from cutting the historic tree for it was on the very edge of the road."

Realizing that the tree might easily be lost to memory, Thomson had a photograph of it taken within a week. Soon after, Thomson heard that the tree had been cut and was on the ground. "I went immediately to view the scene and to photograph the felled tree. What a timely coincidence!" said Thomson.

The felled hanging tree seen at the side of Upper Station Camp Creek Road.